

THE
Lyn Persecution : (7)

Being the

Case of our Brother the Baptist Minister there

JAMES MARHAM,

W H O S E

Goods have been seized, and himself harrassed
in Law (and is now prosecuted in Chan-
cery) for holding a Baptist Meeting in that
Town, notwithstanding his and the Houses
legal Qualification.

Here is also,

A brief Relation of his former Service and Suffer-
ings in promoting the great, though much de-
spised Doctrin of Believers Baptism.

Well approved and advised by the general Elder
deceased

Thomas Grantham.

Attested by the adjacent Churches, and directed to
the Churches at *London* and the Country.

Printed to be read only by the Lovers of Believers
Baptism, because it is fitted only for their Use.

*Christian Brethren, holding the Doctrin of
Believers Baptism.*

IT's known to some, that much of this Case was moved to our Brethren and Churches at London, (that being our Centre) about September, 1692. and then it was advised to give a more particular Relation: Therefore, and because the Case is grown more heavy, is now a Relation given, and given in Print, that it may be effectually intelligible to all our Baptized Brethren, which otherwise we could not propose how to easily make it so. And to do this credibly, we have composed this Narrative of those parts whereof you see it doth consist, viz. The brief Account of Matter of Fact which our Brother *Marham* left under his own Hand, at London, September, 1692. and also the Testimonial from the Brethren at *Lyn*, and Parts adacent. Also, the Testimonials of Brother *Nicholas Knowles*, Elder of the baptized Church at *Whitelsey*. And as Circumstantials to his present Case, here are prefixed several remarkable Services done by Brother *Marham* for the Baptist Interest; and are, therefore, cogent Arguments for our reason to work upon.

Brethren, the Circumstances of our Brother *James Marham*, which preceded his present Troubles, being very remarkable, are Tokens of a good and great desire to promote, what in him lay, the great, though much despised, Doctrin of Believers Baptism; and, therefore, we think it proper to let you know them, as well as his present Troubles, that it may appear that his present Trouble is not a light single Trouble upon him, neither

a Trouble fallen upon a Brother of a slothful Spirit ; but 'tis an unsupportable Trouble come upon the back of several preceding Troubles, through which he hath struggled with great Charge, Loss and Pains, and yet his Love to Truth hath not declined its Promotion ; this, I think, is a Wonder. But 'tis native for a Christian to do Wonders in Perseverance, and therefore is a great Demonstration of Christianity, or a Work of Grace upon the Soul, the consideration of which, together with the publick Interest of Christ, must needs move in us that Love, that as an instinct is in every true Christian to the Brethren : And I assure you, my Brethren, this is that that hath wrought in me (he having hardly any other Acquaintance in London) to thus appear in behalf of his and our Interests, or rather, Christs Interest ; for otherwise, I have my own worldly Business to mind as other Brethren have, and could as gladly rest from this. But when I see a Brother (ingaged in our publick Cause) on the Frontiers, made War upon by our common Enemy, I cannot be silent, but must publish it to Brethren, that their Strength may be called in to his Relief, before, by the violence of Storms, he is utterly ruined, and the Cause there lost, and our selves made the next Spoil to the Enemy. Pray, my Brethren, let it not be with us, as it was with the Priest and Levite that passed by their Brother that fell among Thieves and was wounded, lest it lies as a Reproach upon us, as it doth upon the Priest and Levite unto this day. God doth mind our labour of Love ; and Christ saith, That forasmuch as you did it not to them that believe on me, you did it not to me. And this Relief Brother Knowles hath spoken very essentially, Bis dat, qui cito dat, ^{by} that gives quickly, ^{as proper} does twice : For it will be too late to take a Man out of ^{simile} ^{for a} ^{plunge} Water when he is drowned ; Pro's and Con's about whose

whose right and duty, are dangerous Delays ; even as when we see a Man a sinking, 'tis then no time to contend about the price, and whose right it is to pay the charge of a Boat going out to to take him up. Now or never is the time, as you may also perceive by this pressing, for great Strains are for great Reasons ; and we thus strain because the Burden upon our Brother Marham is now to him intollerable, having always readily expended his Substance for the publick Interest of Believers Baptism : And this heavy Loss to come upon the back of all the rest at last, is unsupportable to him, as it would have been to many of us, though we had not, as he, so liberally bore the Charges of divers former Occasions ; for a Man cannot always hold out, Money has an end ; all Men have not abundance, tho they may have enough for their own support, could they enjoy that peaceably.

Methinks, my Brethren, we should not know how to let Neglect charge, dreadfully charge our Consciences with so great a sin, as neglect in this case will do ; are we willing, or shall we chuse to save our help and lose the Gospel, or at least run the venture ? Or, shall we think that a Brother, such a Brother, doth not oblige us, nearly concern us ? *Methinks*, our Saviour's saying reaches this Matter, Whosoever hateth his Brother without a Cause is guilty — And so, Whosoever neglecteth his Brother without a Cause, nay, when there is meritorious Cause to relieve him, is also guilty.

'Tis more Justice than Charity.

And now more directly to our Brethren, of the particular Point, I say, That this Case, as it comes from the Enemy, is not upon the Account of the general or the particular Points, but against Baptism it self for the Enemy being much of the general Point themselves, the enmity must needs be as they have declared purely against Believers Baptism only, and not the

Person; and therefore, this Case doth also concern our particular Brethren, the Consideration of which hath so affected our Brother Elder Rix of Wisbich, that he hath sent a brief Relation thereof, not only to me, but also to Brother Keach; for he finds the Lord hath a People in that Town, having discoursed with some, on whom a work of Grace hath been wrought.

And I think I may note that many Ministers of different Professions have of late united, because they would promote their School-Fellows, &c. and shall not we Baptists, that both of us, of an humble Spirit, slighted the superstitious World's Reproach and Contempt, by submitting to Baptism for the sake of its being a great Gospel Ordinance; I say, shall not we, also, unite to defend that Gospel Ordinance, for which we in obedience exposed our selves, and ought still to suffer for, when called thereto? May our two Sticks also become one for the real furtherance of the Gospel.

And to me it appears, that the Cost and Charges that have attended our single Brother Marham, would have strained three Country Churches to have paid; and therefore he is a singular Brother, and now ought to be relieved.

But, my Brethren, I am ready to believe all these argumentive Notes are already impressed upon your Consideration, and that, therefore, they are rather superfluous than instructive, because the Merit of the Cause appearing, you will readily espouse it, and give your effectual Supplies; putting the management of the Matter into their Hands that will carefully discharge these my Concerns herein. Pardon my this piece of Service for the publick Interest of our Religion, that I may rest, as I use to do, and remain your Christian Brother,

Lond. Feb. 25. 1697.

C. Doe.

A brief Relation of the remarkable Services and Troubles that went before the present Trouble of our Brother James Marham.

ABout three years before King *Charles II.* died, Brother *Marham* lived in the Town of *Holbich* in *Lincoln-shire*, and then the *Persecution* was so great, that the *Enemy* made a *Lewy* upon him for several score Pounds, and was driven from one Justice to another for 4 days of the Week together, and from one Court to another, until he was driven from both Trade and Habitation, notwithstanding which, he seeing the Cause required it, did appear there in the defence of our Brethren Ministers, Brother *William Rix*, now Elder of the Church at *Wisbich*, and Brother *Samuel Phillips*, until the Justices had set them at Liberty, and yet revenged their Quarrel upon Brother *Marham*, for speaking properly and legally in their behalf; so that the Justice could not satisfy his unreasonable desires, without Imprisonment of Brother *Marham*, saying, That the People of the Town were all of one Religion until Brother *Marham* had Meetings in his House, he being the first Baptist in *Holbich*; so that there is now a Church computed at about 30 baptized Persons, whose Minister is Brother *James Phillips*.

After this, they still took away his Goods, inso-much that he was forced to board himself and Wife for about a year and an half, tho to his much Damage; but the Enemy seeing that he often appeared in the behalf of persecuted Brethren, to instruct and defend them, threatened to knock him on the Head.

And after all this, in King *James's* Reign, Brother *Marham*

Marham living in a Town called, *Wapool* in *Norfolk*, where the People were so much *Strangers* to the name of *Baptist*, that they said he was an outlandish Professor, for they never before heard of such a name as *Baptist*: So that when he had lived there three Weeks, the Officers of the Town were sent to Command him to frequent the *Parish Church*, or else to make his Appearance before Justice Con—and Mr. *Harbe* the Parson of the *Parish*, which Brother *Marham* did, and was discoursed by them four Hours, several Gentlemen being present; and yet the Parson professing dissatisfaction, appointed another time for a further *Debate*; but then came *Liberty of Conscience* by Proclamation, and then the Parson declined the further Debate, and Brother *Marham*, the same Week, set up a Meeting in *Wapool*, where several People did resort, and it pleased God so to prosper his Undertaking, that now there is a baptized People or Church settled there, the Minister thereof is Brother *Robert Booth*.

And upon the Death of our Brother *Marham's* then Wife, he removed from *Wapool* to his now Habitation in *Lyn-regis* in *Norfolk*, and then, by the great Advice of our Brother, and famed general Elder, *Thomas Grantham* deceased, our Brother *Marham* hath undertaken to raise a Meeting in this great Town of *Lyn* also (though there was not another Baptist in this Town neither) which he hath done by hiring the Place, and furnishing it, and entertaining Brother *Grantham*, and after that, Brother *Long*, our London Brethren's Messenger, several Months at Board, &c. without Mony. And since that, Brother *Audly* of *Fenestanton* Communion; and since Brother *Audly's* departure, our Brother *Marham*, to support the Meeting, hath

himself *Preached*, and so continues to do, accepting of, and *entertaining that help* that comes to *Lyn*, from adjacent *Churches*; whereby it hath pleased God to bless these Endeavours with the success of *Conversion* of several Persons that are also *baptized*.

And this *Lyn Meeting* is that that occasioned his present very great *Troubles*, and is, by the Enemy, endeavoured to be *broken in pieces*; upon which occasion we thus move for *Relief*.

The following *Brief* Brother *Marne*—signified to *Goswel-street Brethren*; and I, to our *Barbekin Brethren*, Octob. 1692.

*These, to the Baptized Congregations in
London.*

Doth shew,

THAT *James Marham*, with other of Their Majesties loyal Subjects, dissenting Protestants, under the Denomination of *Baptists*, holding their *Meeting*, for the exercise of Religion, in *Lyn-regis* in the County of *Norfolk*, in a place there *Licensed* according to the late *Act* of Parliament, in that Case provided; have, notwithstanding, been *Prosecuted* as Offenders for so doing, by
and of

Lyn aforesaid, upon a Statute made in the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, Intituled, *An Act to prevent and suppress Seditious Conventicles*; and the Goods of the above said have been seized by a *Levy*, granted against him *July, 1691*, so that he petitioned

oned the Judge Sir E— N—, *Septemb. 1691. at Norwich*, and was after that, forc'd to communicate the same to some of the great Council the last Sessions of Parliament, but after the Parliament was risen, he was *prosecuted* for the same, and is yet in great Trouble threatening his Ruin (if God prevent not) being commanded several times to appear before them, for the dismissing of the Meeting, but as it pleased the Lord it is continued.

Lond. Sept. 28. 1692.

James Marham.

Note, that about a fortnight after the Informers, by Bonds, had made an amicable end with Brother Marham, under pretence of great trouble of Conscience, whereby they got from him a Discharge from their false Information, they then came and actually seized his Goods, according to the former Levy; which plainly discovered their design of agreement was but to have a safer Advantage against him; and by seizing, to ruin him; and therefore 'twas that he was advised to sue the Bonds.

The followng Testimonial I received of Brother Wright of Barbekin.

Lyn Regis, Nov. 7th 1692.

To all Baptized Believers, in London and Country, where these may come, greeting, (upon the account of our Lord) to communicate unto them, and their Christian Consideration, the great Troubles that have attended James Marham since it hath pleased God to put it into the Hearts of the King and Parliament to grant Liberty, &c.

This

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This doth shew,

That *James Marham* in *Lyn Regis*, being one of his Majesty's loyal Subjects Dissenting Protestants, under the Denomination of a *Baptist*, holding Meeting for the Exercise of Religion, in the Place aforesaid, in the County of *Norfolk*, in a Place there Licensed according to the late Acts of Parliament in that Case provided, hath notwithstanding been prosecuted as an Offender, for so doing, from Sessions to the Assizes, and from thence to *London*, and other several Places, by and aforesaid, upon a Statute made in the Reign of King *Charles II.* entitled, *An Act to Prevent and Suppress Seditious Conventicles*: And the Goods of the above seized, and he himself in great Danger, to the great disturbance of his Peace, and hindrance of his Trade, with great Expences of Money and loss of Time, to defend himself at this Time of Day, of Liberty, notwithstanding in the worst of Times he hath suffered greatly, &c.

He doth therefore most humbly beseech the Baptized Churches, as aforesaid, to inspect his Affair, which is a Precedent the like not found in *England*, and to commiserate his condition, who desires nothing but to enjoy his Liberty according to Law, and as other Dissenting Protestants do enjoy the same, without any Molestation in the same Town, where it is denied him with great Rigour, and many Threatnings to be routed out of the Town.

John Gregory,
Will. Harper,
Samuel Philips,
John Shipley,
John Poyed,

George Robson,
Richard Robins,
Joseph Marham,
Richard Consons.

The

(11)
The Case of our Brother James Marham of King's Lyn
in the County of Norfolk, humbly offered to the Chri-
stian Consideration of all the Baptized Churches and
Brethren, who look upon themselves concerned to strive
together for the Promotion of the Gospel of Truth,
in this Day of Liberty.

THAT there is a Meeting of *Baptized Believers* at
Lyn, abovesaid, we suppose is already known
to many, not only in the Country but in London also,
together with the *Hard Things* that have hitherto
befallen them through the inveterate *Malice* of some
great *Adversaries* of Truth, therefore both Substance
and Circumstance is as followeth, viz.

Our deceased Brother and Elder, *Thomas Gran-*
tham, heretofore, about three Years since, came to
Lyn, and Brother *Marham*, the now *Minister*,
being always a very forward Promoter of
Truth, though to his great Cost and worldly *Da-*
mage, heretofore, in the Times of great *Persecu-*
tion, yet still by God's Providence of *Grace*, bear-
ing an inward Love to the same upon Brother
Grantham's offering to preach there at Lyn, Brother
Marham did procure the *Town-hall*, which at that
time was so well replenish'd with attentive Auditors,
like hungry and *thirsty Souls*, so that Brother *Gran-*
tham being exceedingly pleased, put the said Bre-
ther *Marham* upon hiring and licensing some con-
venient Place that a Meeting might be continued in the
said Town; which being *cheerfully consented to* by
Brother *Marham*, he did it accordingly, and fitted
the same at his own proper Charge, without help of
any. Which Place, so fitted, was managed and
supplied sometimes by Brother *Grantham*, and some-
times

times by the *Baptized Churches at Whitelsey*, and other Places, as Brethren had occasion to travel that way, which Brother *Grantham*, observing and receiving the greater Kindness from the Brethren from *London*, to have Brother *Will. Long* sent to *Norwich* as a help to him, he very freely, *Jan. 8. 1690.* sent Brother *William Long* to reside at *Lyn* for a Time, that that new Place of young *Converts* might taste the Kindness of the *London Brethren*; by which means the *Meeting* grew great and numerous, which *Satan* envying, stirred up some *Adversaries*, but by what Means or Persons soever the great *Enemies* were stirred up to espouse this unjust Cause under Pretence of the House not being licensed, nor qualified according to the Direction of the late Act for *Liberty*, although the House was licensed, with all the Formalities directed by the said Act, and did therefore procure and encourage *Robert Whitehead* and *Hen. Oseingcraft* to become *Informers*, who coming to the *Meeting*, entred their *Information* before the *Justices*, who forthwith issued out their *Levy*, 20 l the House, 20 l. the *Preacher*, and 5 s a piece the *Hearers*, by vertue of the Act against *Conventicles*: Our Brethren, all this while being ignorant of their Proceedings, till the *Justices*, not knowing upon whom to charge the 20 l. for the House, sent for Brother *Marham*, and asked him, If there was not a *Meeting* kept in such a Place? he answered *yes*; and then they demanded, Who hired the House? He told them himself had; they then said, He must pay 20 l for that *Meeting* in the House, and said that it was a new Religion, and they would not suffer the *Meeting* to continue, but break it up, or force him out of *Tawn*. He then shewed his *Licence* or Qualification of the House, and

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alleged the *Priviledg* by the late Act for *Liberty*; which they would by no means allow, but caused their *Levy* to be executed both upon *him* and *others*; which causeth Consternation to many *young Beginners*, who gladly received the Gospel. After all this the *Informers* threatned to make a *Rogue* of Brother *Marham*, because he still kept up the Meeting, so that last *March*, on the twenty sixth or thereabout, they pretended a very hard Thing against *him*, demanding Security of *him*; but he refused, and then they swore one Witness against *him*, thinking to have committed Brother *Marham* to Prison, but they could not bring their Purpose about: then Brother *James Marham* getting a Copy of their *Levy*, found they had sworn against one *John Marham*, to be then Preaching, though it was really Brother *Long*, who was only at Prayer, and not Preaching. And also that the *Informers* had sworn, That one *Francis Robinson* was at the said Meeting, who was not there: We having this Advantage, advised with divers, and particularly with the *London Brethren* what was best to be done in this Case, the *Country Friends* thought it best to lay it before the *King and Queen*, by way of *Petition*; but the *Brethren* at *London*, that were conversed with, did not think that advisable, but rather advised our Brother *Marham* to go to *Common Law*, and take Relief there. Which Advice was accordingly followed, and the two *Informers* were put into the *Crown Office*; and our Brother had that way effectually done the Business, had not the greater *Enemies* espoused the Business, and encouraged the *Informers*, when they should have been proceeded against in order to a Tryal, then discharging Mr. *Bur*—our Brother *Marham's* Attorney in *London* from any further Prosecution, as he would answer it in

in the Hands or Custody of a Messenger ; so that the said Attorney, by this great Threat, desisting his Proceedings for a Time ; the Informers took the Advantage to remove it from the Common Law into the Court of Chancery ; and there is already a Subpœna served at Lyn upon Brother Marham, to answer their Bill of Complaint : Which Bill being now received by Brother Marham, which I my self did peruse, contains 31 Sheets, by their way of drawing, though the very Substance of the same, will be proved utterly False ; notwithstanding which it will cost more Money by far than Brother Marham is able to disburse, without evident Ruin, it having cost him a great deal at present to vindicate their Meeting. Brethren, It is not questioned but that our Country Friends will not be wanting ; pray therefore hold not back your Christian Duty at this Time, but to all the good things you have heretofore been exemplary in, add this friendly Kindness also, and pray do it as speedily and as well as you can, remember the ancient and true Proverb, *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

Your Brother in the Lord,

Written at Lyn
Regis, Norfolk,
Feb. 6. 1692.

Nicholas Knowles, *Whitelsey.*

If you desire further Confirmation of the Premises, they will be signed and attested by the Brethren in Norwich, Yarmouth and Lincolnshire.

Wibich,

Wisbich, Feb. 16. 169³.

Brother Doe,

A Cording to your Request, I shall give you some short account of what Sufferings Mr. *Marham* formerly underwent, upon the account of my keeping a *Meeting at his House*. One Mr. *Bur*—, a Justice of the Peace, granted out a Warrant to *break up the Meeting*; and the Warrant ran to take one *John Thorp*, or one that came from or near *Wisbich* whose Name they knew not: There was abundance of People raised, *with all sorts of Weapons, the Doors broke open, and I was taken*, and kept Prisoner till next Day, and then had before the Justice: Mr. *Marham* resolving not to leave me, went thither with me. They sent 5 Informers, but I took great Notice of the *goodness of God* in that thing, for 4 of them were *poor Labourers*, and had no Living but *under their Master* that sent them, yet said they would *starve sooner than swear to do me wrong*; then they had but one. After the Justice saw he wanted Witnesses, said, The *Parliament* was very short in making that Act, that they did not make a *Corporal Punishment* as well as a *Purse*. But said he, *Marham*, I will send you to the *Goal*, and I will ruin the *Anabaptist meetings in this Country*, or they shall ruin me out of my *House*. So Mr. *Marham* was sent to the *Goal*, to his great loss and Charge before he came out. His *Sufferings are so many and so great*, that without a considerable Time I cannot give account; He hath had his Goods seized, and several other Persons had been ruined if he had not been, for he stood like a *Man resolved for God*, to what he knew. He saved many poor Persons from being ruin'd, (say some of the Officers that seized his Goods) and defended all the Professors at his own Cost and Charge, that came to

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to the Meetings. His Acts in entertaining and relieving
such Ministers as were in want hath not been wanting:
I speak not as to my self, for I never had any thing
of him, nor blessed be God wanted it not; I say, if
the baptized Congregations suffer this ruin to befall
him and his Family, there is no Congregation safe by
this Act; for where shall we find any single Person
able to vie such Suits with great Men; and not-
withstanding God hath a People there, yet no Man must
go to Preach but he must be run'd. I need say no
more at present, you having some knowledge of
Things; but I desire the Lord would touch the Hearts
of his People with a fellow-feeling of his now Suffer-
ings; and consider how far the honour of God is
struck at, and the Liberty of the King's loving Sub-
jects. This with my Love, from your unworthy
Brother in the Bands of the Gospel,

William Rix.

Pray give the inclosed to Brother Keach; seal it or not, as you see oc-
casion: The Lord, of his Mercy move the Hearts of the People
to shew Bowels of Compassion to this Person and Cause. But
if there be hardness of Heart, and no fellow-feeling, I shall fear
greater Judgments coming on, for I took notice it was so before the
Persecution broke out so violent; for some Persons they first be-
gun upon were in a way to have freed all the rest; but no person
would contribute a Penny, their Purfes not being big enough,
the Cause fell; and some that denied a small Contribution, that
were very able, at last came to the loss of some hundred Pounds;
this I took notice of, and know to be true.

Since this Narrative was put to the Printers, Bro-
ther Marham came to London, on purpose to put in his
Answer in Chancery, and did it; and then several
Brethren discoursed him. Feb. 27, 1692.

F I N I S.